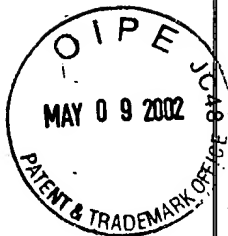


#140/51908
V. 39es



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Daniel L. Auclair, Jeffrey Craig, John S. Mangan, Robert D. Norman,
Daniel C. Guterman and Sanjay Mehrotra

Title: Soft Errors Handling in EEprom Devices

Serial No.: 09/437,078 Filing Date: November 9, 1999

Examiner: E. Moise Group Art Unit: 2133

Docket No.: M-10202-5C US

San Francisco, California
May 9, 2002

BOX AFTER FINAL
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed on February 12, 2002, setting a response period expiring on May 12, 2002, applicant responds to the Official Action as follows:

35/14/2002 JADD01

00000013 192386 09437078

32 FC:102

84.00 CH

In the Claims

Please add the following new claims:

Sub
EI

--46.(New) A method of improving data retention in a nonvolatile writable memory having a first reference level and a second reference level, the nonvolatile writable memory having a plurality of memory cells organized into sectors, each of the memory cells being in an first state when storing a charge below the first reference level, and each of the memory cells being in a second state when storing a charge above the second reference level, the method comprising:

accessing a first sector of said memory cells;

identifying a second sector of said memory cells having one or more memory cells with a charge above the first reference level and below the second reference level; and

rewriting the data values stored in the memory cells of the second sector.

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